

TO: Commissioner Jerry Libbin, Chair

Members of the Sustainability Committee

Dave Doebler – Appointed by Commissioner Jerry Libbin
Lanette Sobel – Appointed by Commissioner Jorge Exposito
Debra Leibowitz – Appointed by Commissioner Deede Weithorn
Liliam Furst – Appointed by Commissioner Jonah Wolfson
Luiz Rodrigues – Appointed by Commissioner Ed Tobin
Gabriole Van Bryce – Appointed by Commissioner Michael Gongora
Mitch Novick – Appointed by Mayor Matti Herrera Bower

DATE: June 18, 2013

SUBJECT: MINUTES OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING OF May 21, 2013.

The attendees were as follows: Committee members: Dave Doebler, Lanette Sobel, Debra Leibowitz, Liliam Furst, Luiz Rodrigues, Gabriole Van Bryce, and Mitch Novick.

City Staff: Glendon Hall, Redevelopment Specialist; Mark Williams, Urban Forester; and, Betsy Wheaton, Environmental Resources Manager.

Guests: Nichole Hefty, Miami-Dade County Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources (RER); Eric Carr, Miami-Dade County RER; and Sheryl Gold, Greenspace Tree Advocacy Group (GTAG).

1. Minutes Review

a. Motion to approve April minutes made by Mr. Rodrigues, seconded by Ms. Sobel. Minutes approved unanimously.

2. Sustainability Committee Work Plan

a. Economic Development & Planning.

Ms. Hefty and Mr. Carr provided an overview of the County's Green Business Program. Mr. Carr indicated that the process entails the completion of a self-certification checklist, followed by a phone interview and an on-site inspection. Certified businesses are then inspected annually to ensure continued eligibility. Mr. Carr stated that 672 businesses have applied for certification, out of which 319 passed the self-audit and only 15 were certified. Commissioner Libbin recommended that the Green Initiatives Fund be used to for program education. Ms. Furst voiced her concern that businesses may shy away from certification due to the inspection portion of the process. Mr. Carr assured the Committee that all information gathered by the program is confidential and, unless there is a gross a violation, is not used to issue citations and fines. MOTION: The Sustainability Committee recommends that the Green Business Certification Program be added to the current EcoZone Ordinance. Motion made by Ms. Van Bryce, seconded by Mr. Rodrigues. Motion passed unanimously. ACTION: Staff to draft referral to the Neighborhood and Community Affairs Committee.

b. Natural Resource & Ecosystem Management.

Ms. Gold provided a summary of the Greenspace Tree Advocacy Group (GTAG)

Committee's mission and requested the Committee's support in GTAG's future initiatives, which may include a City tree inventory and a Green Infrastructure Plan. Mr. Williams continued the discussion by introducing four tree species found within the City and the benefits they provide to the local community.

c. Solid Waste Management.

Ms. Wheaton provided an update regarding the implementation of the City's Recycling Ordinance. The City sent a courtesy warning letter through the waste haulers requesting recycling program verification. Ms. Sobel recommended that Code Enforcement officers verify recycling compliance when conducting property inspections related to other violations. MOTION: The Sustainability Committee recommends that the City Commission implement the fines associated with the Recycling Ordinance on the original date of July 1, 2013. Motion made by Ms. Leibowitz, seconded by Ms. Van Bryce. Motion passed unanimously.

d. Commission Referral Items.

The Committee referred the following items to the City Commission for the June 5, 2013 meeting: (1) Discussion Regarding an Amendment to the Energy Economic Zone Ordinance to Include Miami-Dade County's Green Business Certification Program as an Eligibility Criteria To Receive the EcoZone Program Tax Incentives; (2) Discussion Regarding an Amendment to the Special Event Requirements and Guidelines to Include Recycling Requirements for All Special Events That Require a Sanitation Plan; (3) Discussion Regarding the Enforcement Components of the Recycling Ordinance; and, (4) Discussion Regarding Potential Funding Sources for the Commission to Appropriate Annually to the Green Building Program for Refund of Green Building Program Certification Application and Review Fees as Stipulated by the Green Building Ordinance.

e. Air Quality & Climate Change.

i. Tobacco Free Florida discussion deferred to a future meeting.

3. New Business

a. Commissioner Libbin provided the Committee with an update on how items are to be placed on the agenda. Committee members can refer new topics during New Business. Between meetings, Committee members should contact Commissioner Libbin directly regarding referring agenda items.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.

The proceedings of this meeting have been recorded. Please contact Patricia Bocio at 305.673.7080 or pbocio@miamibeachfl.gov for more information.